

WILL LAST FOR AGES.

THE MAGNIFICENT PALACE BUILT
BY G. W. VANDERBILT.Six Hundred Men Employed on a North
Carolina Estate Carrying Out a Pri-
vate Agricultural Experiment.

When George W. Vanderbilt began prospecting around Asheville, N. C., less than a dozen years ago, farming was the thing which he least thought of. The palace for it is that and nothing else, which he is building there is intended to be a monument to last for ages, a silent but significant tribute to the perseverance and ability for accumulating wealth with which this remarkable family is endowed. At present, says a writer in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, rovers are covering the main roads to see what work may begin at the exterior. The outer walls of stone and brick are completed. So far not a piece of wood has been placed in it, except scaffolding and false-work. Every thing is stone, brick, iron and steel work. I need no eminent architect say that it will be as solid five centuries from the time it is completed as the day its owner enters it to live. See and think of that a moment. Then think again that six hundred men are at work on this place, the grounds, and that Mr. Vanderbilt will not allow one to be paid less than \$1 per day, making a pay-roll of \$600,000 and \$600,000 more. Add to this the fact that six years will be required to build the magnificence, and that in all so many millions will be spent in the work, including the building of roads, terracing of mountains, planting of trees and shrubs and other features of landscape. You will have here a faint idea of the magnitude of Mr. Vanderbilt's plans.

For several weeks a Wagner prince car has been standing on an private railroad track near a completed palace. In fact, Mr. Vanderbilt loves the name and uses it ever possible. In this car he comes from New York to personally examine the work he has lived in the car, and confined most of his inspection to the building of roads, but now the farmer intends to occupy much of his attention, and to be on the spot he has built a number of rooms in a the garden, a two-story farm-house, about three miles from the "mansion," as the natives around here term it, and have rooms have been newly put up and have modern furniture. The owner remains with other attendant than an English butler, besides the family in the house. From the windows of his room he can see the fields of grain and the plowed hillside to be sown. It is right in the country without any indication of city life in sight.

THE MILLIONAIRE ON HIS FARM.
Every morning his secretary and superintendent of agriculture, Baron d'Allings, visits him, and an hour or so is usually occupied in reading such reports as are received from the various farms he owns. He is a man of great energy, and is always on the move. He often jumps into a light wagon and drives over the roads to inspect farms, and examines some new found plant or some insect which may be damaging the grain. Often he will walk into the field and talk with the hands at work on some part of the plantation. In this way he sees that planting is well done, and strong attractions for him, and the cultivation of the soil has as much fascination as the buying of stocks and bonds, or the planning of railroads in combination. His interest in agriculture has attracted much attention throughout this section. People who at first regarded his purchases as a waste of land and his plan as a vicious experiment, are now won over by the success of his methods. They perceive how much benefit his experiment will be to agriculturalists generally, as well as to the farmer. He has made a number of experiments on good roads, since which he means to carry on more experiments on the broadest and most comprehensive basis.

The general name for the Vanderbilt estate is Baltimore. A drive of twelve miles on the main road leading south of Asheville takes you to the boundary of the property, which is the Swannanoa river. Crossing the bridge you see a long, dirty-looking shed of a building, the mansion, while millions are sold in Asheville and vicinity. All of the clay for the brick is dug at Baltimore, and hauled to the works on a steam wagon. Four miles away is a standard gauge railway, seven miles in length, traversing the property, every foot of each being laid on lands owned by George W. Vanderbilt, who is the largest landowner in the Baltimore farming district.

At present 1,400 acres are under cultivation, divided into six farms, each in charge of a foreman, each boy having four horses to do his work. The land is set off from fertile parts of the estates, and is in different sections, the part nearest to the approach to the estate being the largest. The farm furthest from the particular place is a narrow strip in the Asheville market when not consumed at home. The most modern methods of agriculture are employed, and the best utensils. Much is done in the raising of stock, while all the dead leaves, etc., are mixed into a compost, which also serves to fertilize the land. As a result the yield of corn in the valley is double that of the north, making one of the largest agricultural properties in America, to the number of cattle, horses, etc.

THE HUNDRED TO COST \$4,000.

Special attention is being given to flocks which is now about 1,200 sheep. What is known as feeder or ensilage plants are being planted extensively as an experiment. Superintendent d'Allings believes they can be grown in the place, though in other kinds of hay which are a failure in this as well as in many other parts of the South. The alfalfa, teesote, and lathyrus silvestris, the latter a European species, are new and other plants are being raised successfully. They are used in ensilage, or which 700 tons have already been made this season. The principal cereal crop is wheat, and the principal cash crop, while on a twenty-five-acre garden patch are grown asparagus, peas, beans, lettuce, onions, berries, and a variety of other vegetables, all of which find a ready sale in the Asheville market when not consumed at home. The most modern methods of agriculture are employed, and the best utensils. Much is done in the raising of stock, while all the dead leaves, etc., are mixed into a compost, which also serves to fertilize the land. As a result the yield of corn in the valley is double that of the north, making one of the largest agricultural properties in America, to the number of cattle, horses, etc.

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